

FACT SHEET

Cost of Doing Business

South Carolina is consistently ranked as a top business location and provides a lower cost of doing business.

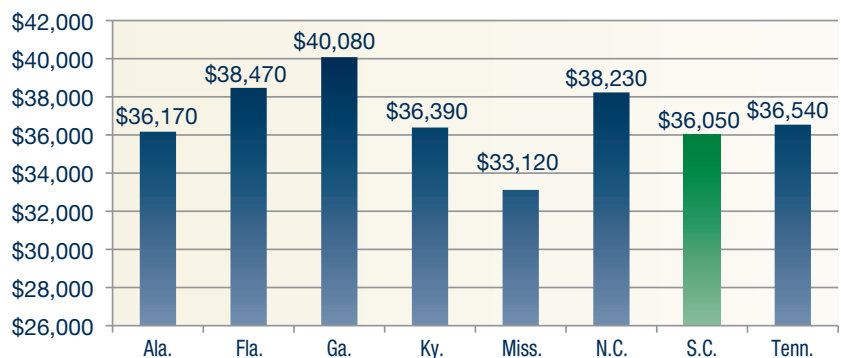
WORKFORCE AND WAGES *Providing the Right People at the Right Costs*

South Carolina is the nation's 10th fastest-growing state, increasing its population by 13.7 percent between 2000 and 2009. The United States population grew by 9.1 percent during this same time period. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Estimates*)

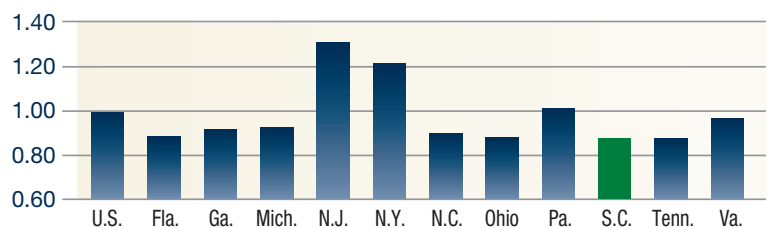
The labor force in South Carolina has steadily grown by 11.2 percent faster than the national average growth of 7.3 percent. (Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics)

South Carolina is a right-to-work state and has one of the lowest unionization rates in the United States, ranking third lowest at 4.5 percent. (Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 22, 2010, data are 2009)

South Carolina has the 10th lowest mean annual wage in the nation and the second lowest in the Southeast. (Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Annual Wages for Southeastern States**COST OF LIVING** *Providing More Buying Power*

The Annual Cost of Living Index (COLI) which compares all states, metropolitan areas and counties in the United States for 2007, shows South Carolina has a lower cost of living than neighboring states. South Carolina's effective purchasing power is \$1.16 ($\$1.16 = 1/0.86$), which means the average value of \$1 across the United States can purchase \$1.16 worth of goods and services in South Carolina. (Source: South Carolina Department of Commerce "Annual Cost of Living Index," May 2009)

Annual Cost of Living Index by State, U.S. = 1.00**TAXES** *Benefitting a Business's Bottom Line*

- South Carolina has the 11th best tax structure for entrepreneurship and small business. (Source: *Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council's Business Tax Index*, 2009)
- South Carolina is ranked ninth best in the nation in adjusted unemployment taxes. (Source: *Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council's Business Tax Index*, 2009)
- The Tax Foundation in Washington ranked South Carolina as having the ninth lowest corporate income tax rate in the nation. (Source: *Tax Foundation, 2010 State Business Tax Climate Index*)

State Corporate Tax Rate

Alabama	6.5%
Florida	5.5%
Georgia	6.0%
Kentucky	6.0%
Mississippi	5.0%
North Carolina	6.9%
South Carolina	5.0%
Tennessee	6.5%

Cost of Doing Business

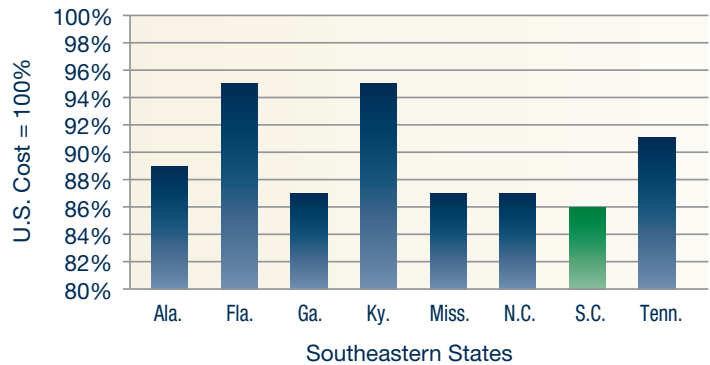
REAL ESTATE *Providing Lower Operating Costs*

Since South Carolina's population and employment growth are expected to be positive in the near future, the state can be competitive in real estate costs when compared to industry trends. In fact, construction costs in South Carolina are some of the lowest in the Southeast and 14 percent below the United States average for Class A office facilities.

(Source: Marshall Valuation Service, October 2009)

The state has a diverse array of buildings and sites to meet a company's needs. A full database of buildings and sites is located on the Department of Commerce's Web site at SCcommerce.com. Click on Browse Buildings & Sites from the home page to find the right location to fit the needs of your business.

Marshall Valuation Service = Class A Construction Index

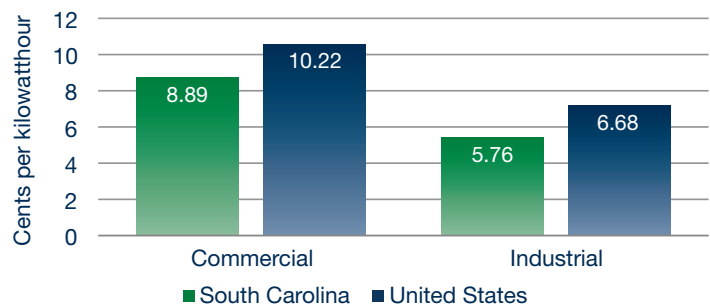


LOW UTILITY COSTS *Resulting in a Better Bottom Line*

The size and number of utilities in South Carolina has led to some of the region's most affordable power costs. Industrial power costs in the state average only 5.76 cents per kilowatt hour, the 10th lowest rate in the nation and about 14 percent less than the national average of 6.68 cents per kilowatt hour. (Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, January 2010)

South Carolina electric providers generate nearly 17 megawatt hours monthly for every 10,000 people living in the Palmetto State, a power generation ratio nearly twice the national average and third-highest of states with more than one million people.

Average Price of Electricity, October 2009



RECENT RANKINGS *Demonstrating the State is the Right Place for Business*

- CNBC ranks South Carolina as the fifth best state in the cost of doing business. (Source: CNBC America's Top States for Business, July 2009)
- *Forbes* magazine ranks South Carolina sixth best in 2009 for its pro-business regulatory environment. *Forbes* considered the state's regulatory and tort climate, incentives, transportation and bond ratings. (Source: *Forbes: The Best States for Business*, September 2009)
- South Carolina consistently ranks high on *Site Selection* magazine's ranking of "Top State Business Climates" and took the sixth spot for 2009. South Carolina also scores high with business executives surveyed by *Site Selection*. They ranked South Carolina fourth in 2009 and among the top 10 for the past six years. (Source: *Site Selection*, November issues)
- South Carolina has the sixth best business climate in the nation according to a survey of United States corporate executives by Development Counsellors International (DCI). South Carolina has consistently received high marks since DCI began the survey in 1996. DCI conducts the survey every three years. (Source: *Development Counsellors International*, July 2008)
- South Carolina was named one of the 10 best states in the nation in which to do business in *Chief Executive's* annual poll of readers. (Source: *Chief Executive*, January/February 2009)